

## How to worship God

Ever since Hermes started celebrating people and animals and his cousin, Nimrod, turned it into worship, nearly five thousand years ago, there have been different religions and different sects of them.

Pharisees and Sadducees both claimed to be Jews. Pharisees cited Moses and the law as their authority. Sadducees claimed traditions and privileges that obtained under Zadok, the High Priest during Solomon's days.

The Lord didn't have much to say to the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection or the Spirit.

Today, among the Gentiles exist as many different sects as in the Old Days. Fortunately, no religion at all is required to be saved, according to Psalms,

*Psa 50:23 Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me:  
and to him that ordereth his conversation aright  
will I shew the salvation of God.*

The question arises, What is the right way to worship The Lord?

Clearly, He said, 'in spirit and in Truth', But that happens in the heart. What is the best way to approach The Lord on the outside, in church and in community?

There are so many choices it boggles the mind. What do we use as a standard? If we use what people think, we will end up with tradition. If it was good enough for my parents it's good enough for me.

But, does that really focus on the idea of getting closer to God, or closer to family and friends?

Many choose what is most convenient. But, doesn't that serve the flesh rather than the spirit?

The Christian churches have many different agendas. Most use the Bible in some fashion and all think they are the only one doing it right.

There will always be a few in any culture who overcome this world and make the cut. Yet, the vast majority are not really sincere. They are just there for appearance or conscience sake or some other reason not even related to the kingdom. Many hover around looking for money, companionship or self esteem. Some even come for the air conditioning or the food. This is not written for those people.

The best way to conduct church and to worship The Lord is to simply follow His instructions. The Bible is full of information regarding all of that. Among the most obvious is;

*Jer 12:16 And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of my people.*

*Jer 12:17 But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD.*

We should realize The Lord knows what works best and designed us with all this in mind. We should just trust Him.

The best words to describe the feeling of following God's Commandments correctly are peaceful and invulnerable.

The Lord is not changing the rules very much in this Age. It was the religious leaders of those days who clouded everything two thousand years ago. They were

trying to keep their positions and wealth. They traveled around confusing people saying everyone had to follow the customs in order to be saved, when that was never true.

Back to the question, What is the right way to worship The Lord? The Lord didn't say much about church practices. He focused mainly on how to treat other people.

It appears to Him, church is always in session. We are always being watched and judged. His words are more than good advice, they are commandments to the faithful of heart.

The best way we can understand how to worship Him is to look ahead. In The Revelation, The Most High is revealing things to His Son, Our Lord. Some of it happens in the future.

*Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*

*Rev 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

Here The Lord is shining a light on those who pretend to be Jews but are really not Jews. Then He does something similar with the church at Philadelphia.

*Rev 3:7 And to the angel of the church in*

*Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*

*Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*

(...and hast not denied my name.)

The Lord is recognizing the church in Smyrna and Philadelphia for calling themselves Jews, therefore, not denying His Name. Using His name is very important to Him. This is the second time He points that out as a measure in The Revelation.

When The Lord was teaching His disciples, He explained what they should call their religion;

Mat 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Being hated for His 'name's sake' means being called by His name. His people have been and are now hated for that Name

In the Old testament He mentions it many times as, 'for my names sake', and 'My people who are called by My Name'.

Going back to mount Sinai, we find where the idea

of being called by His name started. It was a marriage arrangement where Israel agreed to keep His Commandments and become His Bride - being called by His name.

When we understand this simple truth, it becomes obvious. It has been hidden to all unable to read Hebrew and to most who can.

Original Hebrew had no vowels and somehow, the pronunciation got changed to, יהוה, Jehovah. However, using these vowels it should be translated, יְהוֹה, Yehu, which matches the word for Jews in the Hebrew language, Yehudim.

While the word - Yehudim, יְהוּדִים means Jews, the dim, דִּים, means 'those of', therefore - 'those of God'.

In turn, it makes the scripture accurate that says, 'people who are called by My Name'.

Many years later, after many failures and much suffering by His first Bride, The Lord is speaking to the chief priests and elders of the people in Jerusalem.

Mat 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

When those old Jews denied The Lord in person, they lost their status as Jews. That title now belongs to His new Bride, The New Jews, who in faith produce the fruit of the spirit.

In The Revelation, He is scolding people who are

still claiming to be Jews by birth, but are not, as 'the synagogue of Satan'.

If being Jewish had anything to do with bloodline or birth, that would not make sense. One would either have the right kind of blood or not.

But as Paul explained, it has to be a matter of faith, not birth that makes someone a Jew.

The Lord is commending these churches for not denying His name and for keeping His commandments.

All this is in concert with things The Lord said when He was on the road to Damascus.

*Joh 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.*

And Paul wrote;

*Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

In the ancient world at least one nation knew all this and that His Name should not be taken lightly.

Evidence the book of Exodus;

*Exodus 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain."*

*and later...*

*Proverbs 30:9 "Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."*

The first verse means we should not take on His name if we don't intend to follow His rules. The second verse describes a man who did that by breaking the commandment, and so, taking the Name in vain.

Of course, that happened as an example for us and we now have grace, so it's no longer in vain, unless we never intended to keep His rules anyway.

This is the only way the Bible can be fair and make sense. In the following text, The Lord is describing conditions in the last days.

*Zech 8:23, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."*

We are there now. According to Paul, he was already experiencing the last days during the Day of Pentecost;

*Act 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.  
Act 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;  
Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:  
Act 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my*

*Spirit; and they shall prophesy:*

A note on how not to worship.

When Israel crossed the Jordan, The Lord gave them a warning about the inhabitants of the new land. He straightly forbade them to worship Him the same way those people worshiped their gods. This is a clear trap that extends to our day taken up by the Catholic Church.

*Deu 12:30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.*

*Deu 12:31 Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.*

Many of the conditions in those times are the same in our days. Concerning holidays, Paul writes,

*1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*

Paul is talking about Passover and the days of unleavened bread.

*1Co 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have*



*fellowship with devils. 1Co 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*

What Paul means about sacrifice to devils was the very popular mystery cults of the day. Every city in the roman empire was deeply involved in idol worship. Paul realized the idols represented devils from the distant past, sometimes even possessing people around him. The rituals performed often included cannibalism, blood drinking and orgies. All, of course, are forbidden by God.

The amazing thing is, they are still present in our culture. Most all our holidays are directly traceable to these mystery cults. Even the days of the week in America come from these forbidden idols. The Greek fraternities and sororities in American colleges are practicing these ancient religions, They take oaths to the same gods, orgies and other things.

Nearly all our holidays come directly from these ancient pagan festivals; Christmas incorporates practices from the Saturnalia, where a tree is cut and put inside the house decorated with red berries. Easter incorporates practices from Babylon and Ishtar that contain eggs as a symbol of life. Halloween is a day dedicated to evil once called all-hallows eve. All these things are forbidden by God.

*Jer 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.*

*Jer 10:3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.*

*Jer 10:4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.*

If we expect to survive the Judgment Day, we need to change our priorities and agendas now.

On the other side, the days of the week in Israel amount to; day one, day two, day three etc.. as given in Genesis.

### The Colossians

Colossian scriptures have been used to condemn the Jews and their customs. Paul never said any such thing. Here is some understanding from the worldwide church of God. They explain it was gnostic heretics that were trying to mislead the new believers.

What type of deceitful regulations did Paul combat? "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle ... according to the commandments and doctrines of men" (Colossians 2:21-22). The heretics advocated man-made regulations concerning physical things that "perish with the using" (verse 22). Why is this important? The deceivers were probably forerunners of a major religious movement, gnosticism, that flourished in the second century. They did not represent the mainstream Jewish thinking of that day, nor were they faithful to the Scriptures. They believed salvation could be obtained through constant contemplation of what is "spiritual"—to, as Paul explained, the "neglect" of the physical body (Col 2:23). It appears they believed in various orders of angels and in direct human interaction with angels.

Paul indicates they regarded all physical things, including the human body, as decadent. He explicitly states that the heresies he was countering "concern things which perish with the using [physical things] according to the commandments and doctrines of men" (Col 2:22).

Paul tells us he was countering human commandments and doctrines—not the commandments of God. The Colossian heretics had introduced various man-made prohibitions—such as "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle" (Col 2:21)—against the enjoyment of physical things. They especially objected to the pleasurable aspects of God's festivals—the eating and drinking aspects—that are commanded in the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 12:17-18).

When Paul wrote, "... Let no one judge you in food . . ." (Col 2:16), he wasn't discussing what types of foods they should or should not eat. The Greek word *brosis*, translated "food," refers not to the kinds of foods one should or should not eat, but to "the act of eating" (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, 1985, "Food").

The point is that the deceivers disdained feasting—any type of eating and drinking for enjoyment.

### The Galatians

Many people have been told the book of Galatians is arguing against Judaism and the ways of the Lord. The Galatians were worshiping idols of the mystery cults, descended from Babylon. According to the *Ancient History Encyclopedia*, an article by Joshua J. Mark reads;

*"That Galatian law was derived from the gods is suggested by the proximity of the sacred city of Pessinus, dedicated to the Mother Goddess Cybele and her consort Attis, close on the border of the western part of Galatia controlled by the Tolistogogii, (one of the Galatian founding tribes)."*

The Galatians were fighters. When they were not fighting against another nation they were fighting for

another one as mercenaries. It is not surprising they would choose a cult like Cybele, which was known for wild orgies and blood guzzling. Galatians were pretty rough cut folk, so it would be quite a task to turn their entire culture into a Jewish one.

After Paul had been there teaching them, a fake Jewish scholar went and discouraged them by saying it is necessary to keep the Jewish customs in order to be saved. When in fact, those customs never had anything to do with salvation. Justification and salvation happened at the temple on the altar, which is what the Lord replaced. Paul said,

*"Gal 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.*

*Gal 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*

*Gal 4:10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.*

*Gal 4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."*

He means they should not be returning to their former cult activities and he is afraid he is wasting his time working with them.

Then he explains it is not the works of the law that saves people, but faith in The Lord. Otherwise, it would have been a waste for the Lord to die.

While on the other side of that idea, The Lord, who we depend on to save us from the letter of the law said;

*Mat\_19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

Paul was by no means against the law. He was against the idea that people are saved by keeping the law. The Lord still expects us to keep the Commandments both new and old.

*Mat\_5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

The Greek word used for 'destroy', *kataluō*, only means destroy when associated with a physical object. (of institutions, forms of government, laws, etc., to deprive of force, annul, abrogate, discardis) - Thayers Greek Lexicon.

In other words, He did not come to deprive the law of force, but to demonstrate how to keep it.

There was one person in each Age of the world who was able to keep the law well enough to not die. Enoch in the First Age, Elijah in the Second Age and Yeshua in the Third.

If that were not so it could be argued the law is impossible and therefore not fair. But since one person in each Age has done it, it is fair.

We are as responsible for the spirit of the law today as if we were standing at the foot of the mountain. So, we will either keep the Lord's Commandments to the degree that we love Him or we will impose on His patience till the Judgment Day.

The Lord said,

*Mat 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

*Mat 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least Commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

*Mat 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

That's pretty clear.

### The End of the Third Age

*Luk 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

*Luk 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;*

*Luk 21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.*

*Luk 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

*Luk 21:28 And when these things begin to come*

*to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

The end of Gentiles.

*Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

The times of the Gentiles has an end, the times of the Jews has no end.

This is when the righteous inherit the earth because they are the only ones left. Then they are taken up to join The Lord.

*Mat\_13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,*

### Avoiding The Traps

Most religions are traps, tricking people into forbidden things. The most successful were the ones from Egypt called the mystery cults. They dominated the ancient world, Rome and still exist today, disguised in other organizations.

Apparently, we don't have to be aware of doing wrong to be held accountable. Example, The Lord said;

*Luk 11:44 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them.*

Walking over those graves has the same effect whether they knew about them or not. Nowadays similar things have been employed widely to deceive the people. Forbidden things are still forbidden. Here is the reason.

Joh 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Jas 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

It's all being done to keep people away from God and to keep God from helping people.

In a way, false religions could be seen as a filter, separating the wheat from the chaff. The chaff is light and flighty, without understanding or direction, or relationship with God.

In the end, only His remnant will be saved, as God answers a very old prayer when Enoch prayed The Lord to not destroy the whole earth but save a remnant throughout time.

*Ron Cash*